

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please cancel claims 1 - 14 without prejudice.**

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**Please add New Claims 15 – 29 so as to read as follows:**

15. (New) An estimate creating device for creating and notifying estimate information that includes a specification and/or an estimate of a price of a product, on the basis of user demand information that depends on a specific negotiation and estimate basic information that does not depend on any specific negotiation, comprising:

a negotiation-independent information database containing negotiation-independent information that includes the estimate basic information and an update flag indicating whether or not the estimate basic information has been updated;

an estimate creating section which, upon receiving an estimate create request, creates estimate information by obtaining from the negotiation-independent information database estimate basic information that conforms to user demand information and returns the created estimate information to a requestor of the estimate create request;

a negotiation-dependent information creating section which, upon receiving a request from a user terminal, transmits the estimate create request to the estimate creating section, creates negotiation-dependent information that includes the returned estimate information, contract conclusion information indicating whether or not a contract has been concluded concerning the product to which the estimate information is directed, and the user demand information, and issues the estimate information or an announcement that the estimate information has been created as a reply to the user terminal;

a negotiation-dependent information database in which the created negotiation-dependent information is stored;

- a contract conclusion information updating section which, upon receiving updated contract conclusion information for updating a specific contract conclusion information piece, makes the negotiation-dependent information database update a contract conclusion information piece identified by the received updated contract conclusion information on the basis of the received updated contract conclusion information;
- a negotiation-independent information updating section which, upon receiving updated negotiation-independent information for updating a specific negotiation-independent information piece, makes the negotiation-independent information database update a negotiation-independent information piece identified by the received updated negotiation-independent information on the basis of the received updated negotiation-independent information; and
- an estimate newly-creating section which, on the basis of information stored in the negotiation-independent information database and the negotiation-dependent information database, obtains negotiation-dependent information when the contract has not yet been concluded which includes estimate information created by using the estimate basic information that was an object of updating, transmits to the estimate creating section an estimate create request that includes user demand information of the obtained negotiation-dependent information, makes the negotiation-dependent information database update the negotiation-dependent information with returned estimate information, and transmits to the user terminal the estimate information or an announcement indicating that the estimate information has been created.

16. (New) A computer-readable program-recorded medium that contains an estimate creating and notifying program, wherein said program makes a computer function as:

the estimate creating section, the negotiation-dependent information creating section, the contract conclusion information updating section, the negotiation-independent information updating section, and the estimate newly-creating section as set forth in claim 15.

17. (New) An estimate creating and notifying method for creating and notifying estimate information that includes a specification and/or an estimate of a price of a product, by using user demand information that depends on a specific negotiation and estimate basic information that does not depend on any specific negotiation, comprising the steps of:

storing negotiation-independent information including the estimate basic information in a negotiation-independent information database;

creating negotiation-dependent information including the user demand information;

creating the estimate information using the user demand information and the estimate basic information;

storing the created negotiation-dependent information in a negotiation-dependent information database when a contract has not been concluded concerning the product for which the estimate information is created;

updating the negotiation-independent information stored in the negotiation-independent information database;

newly creating estimate information when said step of updating the negotiation-independent information has been performed, based on the estimate basic information in the updated negotiation-independent information and the user demand information in the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database; and  
transmitting the estimate information as created or an announcement indicating that the estimate information has been created to a user associated with the user demand information.

18. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 17, wherein

the negotiation-dependent information includes user information that specifies a negotiating counterpart and/or a contact address of the negotiating counterpart, or a user information address that indicates a storage area of the user information, and  
information on a transmission destination of the estimate information or announcement used in the step of transmitting to the user associated with the user demand information is obtained on the basis of the user information or the user information address.

19. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 17, wherein

the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database includes the estimate information and a negotiation-independent information address which is an address of the negotiation-independent information that includes the estimate basic information used in creating the estimate information, and

the step of newly creating the estimate information comprises updating the estimate information in the negotiation-dependent information that includes the negotiation-independent information address for identifying the negotiation-independent information used in newly creating the estimate information, with the newly created estimate information.

20. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 17, comprising the step of:

transmitting the created estimate information to a user terminal for presentation to the negotiating counterpart in response to a request from the negotiating counterpart via the user terminal.

21. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 17, wherein

the product for negotiation is a solar photovoltaic power generation device.

22. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 21, wherein

the user demand information includes at least one of roof information concerning a roof on which a solar battery is to be installed, a desired power output, a desired time of purchase, solar battery installation surface conditions, and a desired purchase price.

23. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 21, wherein

the estimate information includes at least one of:  
information concerning layout design for solar battery installation at individual customers' houses; and  
a subsidy application time or a new product release time.

24. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 21, wherein

the estimate basic information includes at least a subsidy application time or a new product one of:  
information concerning installation;  
information concerning a subsidy; and  
information concerning a solar battery module or information concerning a power controller.

25. (New) An estimate creating and notifying method for creating and notifying estimate information that includes a specification and/or an estimate of a price of a product, by using user demand information that depends on a specific negotiation and estimate basic information that does not depend on any specific negotiation, comprising the steps of:
- storing negotiation-independent information including the estimate basic information in a negotiation-independent information database;
  - creating negotiation-dependent information including the user demand information and contract conclusion information indicating whether or not a contract has been concluded concerning the product for which the estimate information is created;
  - creating the estimate information using the user demand information and the estimate basic information;
  - storing the created negotiation-dependent information in a negotiation-dependent information database;
  - updating a content of the contract conclusion information in the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database;
  - updating the negotiation-independent information stored in the negotiation-independent information database;
  - newly creating estimate information concerning the negotiation-dependent information for which the contract conclusion information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database indicates that no contract has been concluded, when said step of updating the negotiation-independent information has been performed, based on the estimate basic information in the updated negotiation-independent information and the user demand information in the negotiation-dependent information; and



transmitting the estimate information as created or an announcement indicating that the estimate information has been created to a user associated with the user demand information.

26. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 25, wherein

the negotiation-dependent information includes user information that specifies a negotiating counterpart and/or a contact address of the negotiating counterpart, or a user information address that indicates a storage area of the user information, and

information on a transmission destination of the estimate information or announcement used in the step of transmitting to the user associated with the user demand information is obtained on the basis of the user information or the user information address.

27. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 25, wherein

the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database includes the estimate information and a negotiation-independent information address which is an address of the negotiation-independent information that includes the estimate basic information used in creating the estimate information, and

the step of newly creating the estimate information comprises updating the estimate information in the negotiation-dependent information that includes the negotiation-independent information address for identifying the negotiation-independent information used in newly creating the estimate information, with the newly created estimate information.

28. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 25, comprising the step of:  
transmitting the created estimate information to a user terminal for presentation to the negotiating counterpart in response to a request from the negotiating counterpart via the user terminal.
29. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 25, comprising the step of:  
obtaining a plurality of pieces of the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database and carrying out an analysis concerning the negotiation or assistance to an analysis concerning the negotiation on the basis of the obtained negotiation-dependent information.
30. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 25, wherein  
the product for negotiation is a solar photovoltaic power generation device.

31. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 30, wherein  
the user demand information includes at least one of roof information concerning a roof on which a solar battery is to be installed, a desired power output, a desired time of purchase, solar battery installation surface conditions, and a desired purchase price.
32. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 30, wherein  
the estimate information includes at least one of:  
information concerning layout design for solar battery installation at individual customers' houses; and  
a subsidy application time or a new product release time.
33. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 30, wherein  
the estimate basic information includes at least one of :  
information concerning installation;  
information concerning a subsidy; and  
information concerning a solar battery module or information concerning a power controller.

34. (New) An estimate creating and notifying method for creating and notifying estimate information that includes a specification and/or an estimate of a price of a product, by using user demand information that depends on a specific negotiation and estimate basic information that does not depend on any specific negotiation, comprising the steps of:
- storing in a negotiation-independent information database negotiation-independent information including the estimate basic information and an update flag indicating whether or not the estimate basic information has been updated;
  - creating negotiation-dependent information including the user demand information;
  - creating the estimate information using the user demand information and the estimate basic information;
  - storing the created negotiation-dependent information in a negotiation-dependent information database;
  - updating the negotiation-independent information stored in the negotiation-independent information database and changing a content of the update flag such that the flag indicates updating has been performed;
  - newly creating estimate information referencing the content of the update flag and based on the estimate basic information in the updated negotiation-independent information and the user demand information in the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database; and
  - transmitting the estimate information as created or an announcement indicating that the estimate information has been created to a user associated with the user demand information.

35. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 34, wherein

the negotiation-dependent information includes user information that specifies a negotiating counterpart and/or a contact address of the negotiating counterpart, or a user information address that indicates a storage area of the user information, and  
information on a transmission destination of the estimate information or announcement used in the step of transmitting to the user associated with the user demand information is obtained on the basis of the user information or the user information address.

36. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 34, wherein

the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database includes the estimate information and a negotiation-independent information address which is an address of the negotiation-independent information that includes the estimate basic information used in creating the estimate information, and  
the step of newly creating the estimate information comprises updating the estimate information in the negotiation-dependent information that includes the negotiation-independent information address for identifying the negotiation-independent information used in newly creating the estimate information, with the newly created estimate information.

37. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 34, comprising the step of:  
transmitting the created estimate information to a user terminal for presentation to the negotiating counterpart in response to a request from the negotiating counterpart via the user terminal.
38. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 34 comprising the step of:  
obtaining a plurality of pieces of the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database and carrying out an analysis concerning the negotiation or assistance to an analysis concerning the negotiation on the basis of the obtained negotiation-dependent information.
39. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 34, wherein  
the step of newly creating the estimate information is periodically executed.
40. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 34, wherein the product for negotiation is a solar photovoltaic power generation device.

41. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 40, wherein  
the user demand information includes at least one of roof information concerning a roof on which a solar battery is to be installed, a desired power output, a desired time of purchase, solar battery installation surface conditions, and a desired purchase price.
42. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 40, wherein  
the estimate information includes at least one of:  
information concerning layout design for solar battery installation at individual customers' houses; and  
a subsidy application time or a new product release time.
43. (New) The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 40, wherein  
the estimate basic information includes at least one of:  
information concerning installation;  
information concerning a subsidy; and  
information concerning a solar battery module or information concerning a power controller.